

# INFORMATION

*For VVhytefield Hayter, and James Chiefly Merchants in London, and Partners.*

*Against*

*The Skinners in Edinburgh.*

**T**He said *Whitefield Hayter*, &c. all Scotsmen besides himself, and some residing here, having attained to more than ordinary perfection in the Art of dressing and colouring of Leather, making of Glaws and Parchment, and entered in Society and Co-partnerie, and stocked a vast Sum of money for carrying on a considerable Trade therewith; they did mean themselves to the Lords of his Majesties Privy Council, and craved that they might be declared to be a free Manufactory, and have the priviledge of the same, and accordingly conform to the Act of Parliament 1661, obtained the desire of their Petition, and were allowed all the Priviledges competent by Law to a Manufactory; Against which Act the Skinners having reclaimed by a Petition, representing all that was possible for them to do, and craving that the said Act might be recalled, the said Lords were pleased upon Answers given in by the said *Whitefield Hayter* most readily to refuse the desire of the Bill given in by the Skinners, and to adhere to their former Act with this Addition, that the said *Hayter* and Partners should set up in no Burgh-Royal within this Kingdom, unless upon Invitation, and with the Consent of the Burgh, and that they should take Scotsmen both to be Partners and Apprentices, and communicat the Secret of the Trade to such Apprentices, upon the faith of, and conform to these two Acts, the said *Hayter* and Partners did increase their Stocks, and have been at vast Charges and Expenses for carrying on the said Manufactory this while bypast; But (as it would appear by the instigation of the Skinners) the Priviledge competent to them as a Manufactory, not being pleasantly allowed them, and the Partners being unwilling to mortifie more Money unless they had an Act of Parliament in their favours, they meaned themselves to the Parliament, craving that the Act of Council might be Ratified, and they have an special Act in their own name, against which it is informed, the Skinners did compear and object. 1. That the said *Hayter* and Partners had no Skill in dressing and colouring of Leather, at least can pretend to no better Skill therein than the Skinners themselves, and have offered no Specimen of their Art, and do offer to make appear that they can dress Marikin and Shambo, which the Partners cannot pretend to do, and are content to produce Specimens of that same Leather, to which the Partners pretend Skill, and unless there were great odds of their Skill, the Partners ought not to have the priviledge of the Manufactory, and that by the said Erection, they and the hail Skinners of the Kingdom sustain prejudice, insofar as that Skins are bought up by them, and exported out of the Kingdom, so that the Skinners cannot have enough of the Product of this Kingdom to serve the Leidges but at dear Rates. 2. That if the said Manufactory be free of publick Burden, they will be able to out-sell all the Skinners who bear a proportion of these Burdens, and so inhance the said Trade, as also other Manufactories may be encouraged to be set up to the prejudice and Ruine of other





other Trades. 3. By Erecting such a Manufactory, there will arise a considerable Diminution of the Kings Customs, at least the Tradesmen and others would come to be over-charged by their Immunity. 4. The said Skinners have Seals of Cause confirmed by several Acts of Parliament erecting them in an Corporation, and granting them many Priviledges, and particularly that none should be allowed to exercise the Skinner Trade, but such as are admitted by the said Incorporation.

*Whyfield Hoyer* and his Partners, need make no other answer but shortly this, that all these Objections were under the Lords of Privy Council their Consideration the time of their pronouncing their Acts, and particularly their second Act, and that the Opposition made by the Skinners, is chiefly of design to have a Monopolie of dressing of Skins in their own hands, which may clearly appear from this, that there being only One in the Kingdom who knows to dress Leather: the Skinners at least some of them have taken him bound to Work, to none but themselves. However more particularly it is answered, 1. that what is represented by the Skinners themselves against the Exportation of Leather, doth fully evince the Partners Skill in dressing of Leather, seeing if the Leather were not dress better than ordinar, it could not be so Exported as the Skinners do complain it is, and seeing the Encouragment of the Exportation of the native Commodities and Manufactories of the Kingdom does so much tend to the Advantage both of His Majesties Customs, and of the whole Nation: it is hoped that the Skinners Argument founded upon the great Exportation of Leather occasioned by the foresaid Manufactory, will be so far from Tending to their prejudice, that on the contrair, the Co-partners will retort the same, and make it an Argument why the Act of Parliament ought to pass in their Favour and as to any thing that is founded upon the Skinners Skill in dressing Shambo and Marikin: the Co-partners are not concerned therein, seeing it is no part of their Manufactory: but as to any specimen of their Art, if need be is they are willing to give the same when required, but as said is, the great Export ( altho it be not so great, but there always remains sufficient to serve the Skinners, and a great quantity of Skins even in the Wool are yearly Exported, ) is a sufficient Demonstration and Proof of their Skill.

It is answered to the 2d. and 3d. that the same is of no moment in respect that the Partners have been at vast Charges and Expenses in setting up their said Manufactory, which will more than ballance any Immunity they may enjoy besides that always there is Encouragment given to ingenious Spirites for promoting of new Inventions and Manufactories, and the Advantage arising by the Immunities being but small, the Skinners their proportion of Reliefe will be very inconsiderable, and will bear no Proportion with the Advantage they and the Leiges will reap by the Encouragment of the said Manufactory, especially that the whole states consists in Sheep and Cowes, neither will the King sustain any prejudice thereby, seeing the Thriving of the Nation is His Majesties great Interest and Desire, and that as said is, the Kingdom is much bettered by the Export, besides that the foresaid Export will occasion the Import of Commodities, which will augment His Majesties Customs, much more than they were diminished throw not paying of Duty for Export.

It is answered to the 4th. that the Seal of Cause does no wayes meet the present Case, seeing, conform to Act of Council, the Co-partners are not to set up within any Burgh Royal, far less within the Town of Edinburgh.

